SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

A group of Labour MP's, Messrs. John Rankin, Harold Davies, John Mendelson, and Leslie Hale, called on me this morning. They wanted to discuss the situation in Southeast Asia, which we did at length. I welcomed their invitation to meet them and some of their friends before long for dinner at the House of Commons.

Lunched at the office, leaving at 3:10 with E from St. Pancras Station for Chesterfield, on [illegible] way to spend the weekend at Chatsworth with the Devonshires.

The British Railways organization is a remarkable one. When a foreign Ambassador travels, he is usually met at the station by an individual in a frock coat and a black silk hat, who leads him to a reserved compartment on the train. In this instance, we had, as an added courtesy, annexed to us for the journey, a forceful official who commanded tea and cakes for us, kept us abreast of the schedule, furnished us with mete orological observations, and performed the same functions when we returned two days later. What he did, during the interval, remains a mystery--I suspect he practiced the twist in a local night club.

Our destination was Chesterfield, twenty minutes away, by motor, from Chatsworth.

The Duke of Devonshire was absent when we arrived, since he had been booked for a political speech. We reached the towering pile of his house in daylight, somewhat obscured by rain, to be hailed by his charming wife, Deborah. She is one of the daughters of the late eccentric Lord Redesdale. Andrew Devonshire came into the title after the death, during the last war, of his brother, married to President Kennedy's sister, who was later killed in an airplane accident. Consequently, the family fortune, a startlingly large one, was reduced to comparatively small proportions, by death duties, compounded by the untimely demise of their father.

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLW DATE 6-17-81
EXEMPTIONS
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS